

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1932
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEWYORK
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 8748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM US VUR
SUBJ: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIO-
LOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION:
ROUND THREE, SIXTH MEETING, OCTOBER 11.
RW MESSAGE NO. TEN

1. SUMMARY: AT OCTOBER 13 MEETING OF THE US-USSR WORKING
GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, THE SOVIET SIDE COMMENTED
ON THE US POSITION ON VERIFICATION AND A CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE. SOVIET SIDE DID NOT MENTION ENHANCED RADIATION
WEAPON ISSUE. US SIDE REITERATED ITS POSITION THAT THE
SOVIET PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 6 TO INCLUDE ENHANCED RADIATION
WEAPONS IN THE DEFINITION OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS "CANNOT
BE THE BASIS ON WHICH ANY AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE". NEXT
MEETING ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IS SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER 20. AFTER TODAY'S MEETING THE ALTERNATE HEAD OF
SOVIET DEL (KRASSULIN) WAS ASKED IF, IN VIEW OF THE STALE-
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MATE THAT EXISTS, WORK SHOULD START ON THE FINAL COMMUNI-
QUE. HE RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HOPED TO BE IN A
POSITION TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS NEGO-
TIATIONS NEXT WEEK AND THAT IF IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO
START DRAFTING FINAL COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE THIRD ROUND OF THE US-USSR

ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) AND NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW) WAS HELD AT THE SOVIET MISSION ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 11. AMBASSADOR LIKHACHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) STATED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HAD PRESENTED ITS VIEWPOINT ON VERIFICATION FULLY AT THE MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 4 AND 11. IN COMPARING THE SOVIET POSITION CONTAINED IN ARTICLE 6 OF ITS DRAFT CONVENTION AND THE US POSITION CONTAINED IN ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT NUMBER 6, HE SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. HE REVIEWED SOVIET POSITION ON CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IN DETAIL, EMPHASIZING THAT IN SOVIET VIEW IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO VEST CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH AUTHORITY TO MAKE ON-SITE INVESTIGATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF USDEL) SAID THAT THE US SIDE HAD GIVEN CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE SOVIET STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 11 (ON INCLUDING ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS IN THE DEFINITION OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS) AND NOTED ONLY ONE AREA OF AGREEMENT, IN THAT THE PROPOSED CONVENTION SHOULD COVER WEAPONS IN WHICH THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS WERE DISSEMINATED BY MEANS OF A CONVENTIONAL EXPLOSION. HE SAID THAT THIS SMALL AREA OF AGREEMENT IS "VASTLY OVERSHADOWED BY THE AREA OF DISAGREEMENT THAT WAS INTRODUCED IN OUR MEETING ON OCTOBER 6". FISHER NOTED THAT ON OCTOBER 6 THE SOVIET SIDE PROPOSED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE INCLUSION WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF RADIOLOGICAL

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WEAPONS OF "NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS", BY WHICH THE US SIDE ASSUMES IS MEANT ENHANCED RADIATION REDUCED BLAST NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS. HE TOOK NOTE THAT THESE WEAPONS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN THE PRESS. WITH RESPECT TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS IN THE DEFINITION OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, FISHER SAID THAT HE COULD ONLY REPEAT WHAT HE HAD STATED BEFORE: "THIS IS NOT THE BASIS ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAD CARRIED THESE DISCUSSIONS TO THE POINT WE HAD REACHED BEFORE OCTOBER 6 AND THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT THIS CANNOT BE THE BASIS ON WHICH ANY AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE".

4. NEXT MEETING OF RW WORKING GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 20.

5. IN AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION AFTER TODAY'S MEETING, THE ALTERNATE HEAD OF SOVIET DEL (KRASSULIN) WAS ASKED, IN VIEW OF THE STALEMATE THAT APPEARS TO EXIST, IF WORK SHOULD START ON THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE FOR THIS ROUND OF RW NEGOTIATIONS. HE RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE RADIOLOGICAL

WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS NEXT WEEK AND THAT IT WOULD BE
PREMATURE TO START DRAFTING FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

6. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT, SOVIET INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT
TO RW ARE UNCLEAR. TODAY'S SILENCE BY THE SOVIET SIDE
ON THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS ISSUE, TOGETHER WITH
KRASSULIN'S PERSONAL COMMENTS, MAY MEAN THAT THE SOVIETS
DO INDEED WISH TO PROCEED WITH THE RW JOINT INITIATIVE,
AND INTEND TO RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING THAT
ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE RW
CONVENTION'S PROHIBITION. ALTERNATIVELY, THE SOVIETS
MAY WISH TO KEEP THE RW TALKS GOING MERELY FOR TACTICAL
POLITICAL REASON, TO USE IN SOME WAY IN THEIR ANTI-
"NEUTRON BOMB" CAMPAIGN AT THE UN OR ELSEWHERE. END
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Message Attributes

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ROUND THREE, SIXTH MEETING, OCTOBER 11.
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